



Draft Amendment 2 to the Consolidated Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

**Highly Migratory Species
Management Division
NMFS/NOAA**

August-October 2007



Presentation Objectives

- The purpose of this presentation is to give you an overview of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and its proposed rule
- This presentation will give you an overview of:
 - The current status of several shark species
 - Outline the alternatives/alternative suites analyzed in the DEIS
 - Outline the impacts of the current preferred alternative suite
- Please send comments to the address, FAX number, or e-mail address listed at the end of this presentation.

Results from Latest Shark Stock Assessments

Species	Overfished	Overfishing
LCS complex (2006)	Unknown	Unknown
Sandbar (2006)	Yes (rebuild in 70 yrs)	Yes
GOM Blacktip (2006)	No	No
Atl. Blacktip (2006)	Unknown	Unknown
Dusky (2006)	Yes (rebuild in 100-400 yrs)	Yes
Porbeagle (2005)	Yes (rebuild in 100 yrs)	No

Need for Action

- **Based on latest stock assessments, new management measures are needed because:**
 - Sandbar and dusky sharks are overfished with overfishing occurring
 - Porbeagle sharks are overfished
- **Timeframe: Final measures effective early 2008**

Key Topics Included in Each Alternative Suite

- **Quotas/Species Complexes**
- **Commercial Retention Limits**
- **Time/Area Closures**
- **Reporting Requirements**
- **Seasons**
- **Regions**
- **Recreational Measures**

Alternative Suites

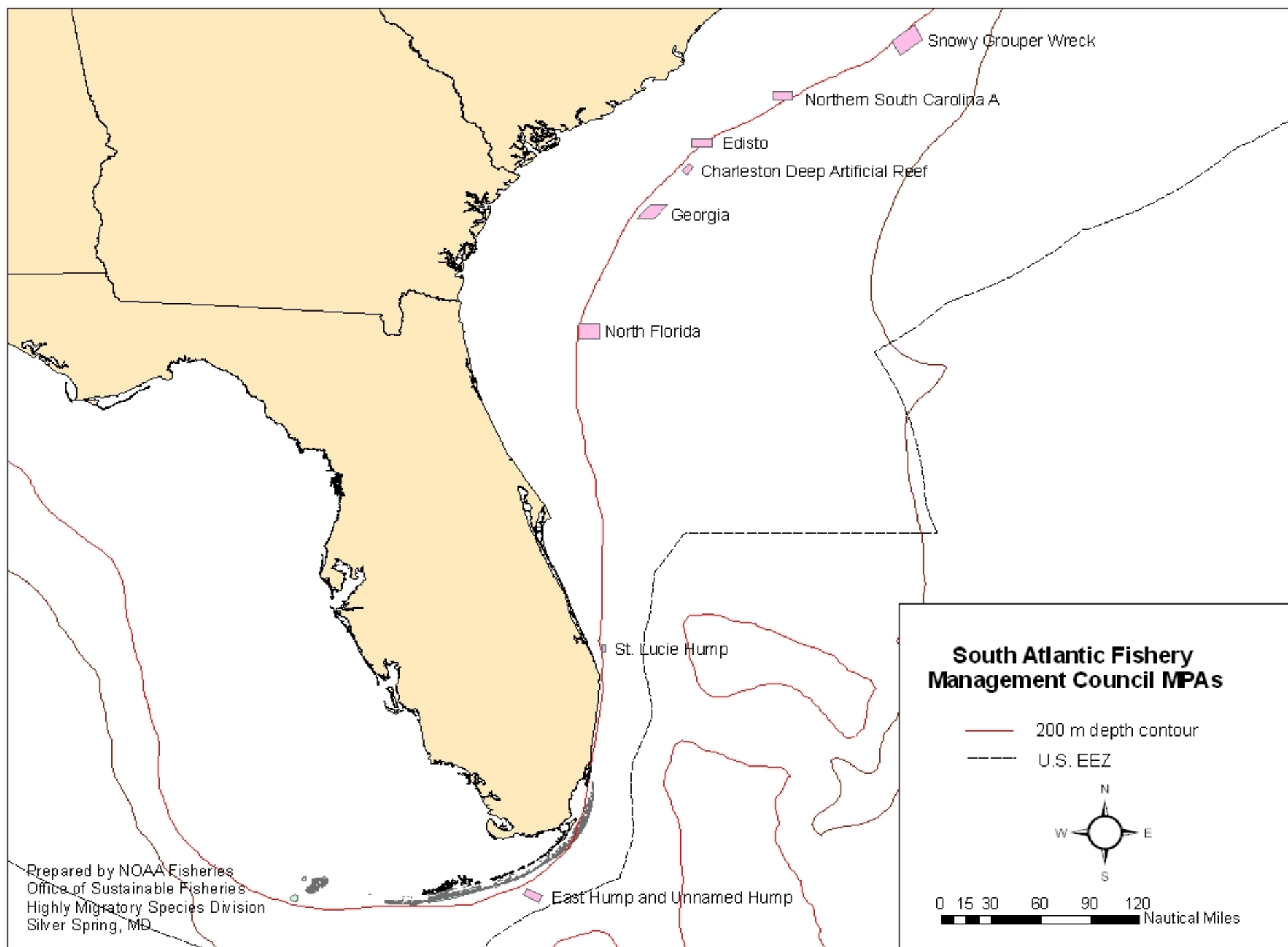
- **Alternative Suite 1: Status Quo**
- **Alternative Suite 2: Directed shark permit holders and recreational anglers**
- **Alternative Suite 3: Directed and incidental shark permit holders and recreational anglers**
- **Alternative Suite 4: *Shark research fishery***
- **Alternative Suite 5: Close the Atlantic shark commercial and recreational fisheries**

Alternative suite	Quotas/ Species Complexes	Retention limits	Time/ Area Closures	Reporting	Seasons	Regions	Rec. Measures
1 – Status Quo							
2 – SKD permit holders and rec. anglers							
3 – SKD & SKI permit holders and rec. anglers							
4 – <i>Shark research fishery</i>							
5 – Close Atlantic Shark Fisheries							

Alternative suite	Quotas/Species Complexes
1 – Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -1,017 mt dw LCS & 454 mt dw SCS -488 mt dw Pelagic Sharks -273 mt dw Blue Sharks -92 mt dw Porbeagle Sharks -19 Prohibited spp. -60 mt ww for EFPs -Remove or apply under and overharvest from same trimester the following year
2 – SKD permit holders and rec. anglers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -116.6 mt dw Sandbar Sharks -541.2 mt dw Non-Sandbar LCS -Status quo for SCS, Pelagics, and Blue Sharks -Add porbeagle sharks to Prohibited spp. list -60 mt ww for EFPs; 2 mt dw for sandbars; no dusky sharks -Remove overharvest from next season -Carryover 50 percent of base quota for species that are healthy -No carryover for species that are overfished, have overfishing occurring, or have unknown status
3 – SKD & SKI permit holders and rec. anglers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Same as alternative suite 2
4 – <i>Shark research fishery</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Same as alternative suite 2
5 – Close Atlantic Shark Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No commercial quotas for Atlantic shark; all shark prohibited

Alternative suite	Commercial Retention limits
1 – Status Quo	<p><u>SKD</u>: 4,000 lb dw LCS trip limit; no trip limit for SCS or pelagics</p> <p><u>SKI</u>: 5 LCS and 16 pelagics & SCS combined per trip</p>
2 – SKD permit holders and rec. anglers	<p><u>SKD</u>: 8 sandbar sharks and 21 non-sandbar LCS per trip; no trip limit for SCS or pelagics</p> <p><u>SKI</u>: no retention of sharks</p> <p>-All sharks landed with fins on</p> <p>-No sandbar sharks with PLL gear onboard</p>
3 – SKD & SKI permit holders and rec. anglers	<p><u>SKD & SKI</u>: 4 sandbar sharks and 10 non-sandbar LCS per trip</p> <p>-No trip limit for SCS and pelagics for SKD</p> <p>-16 pelagics & SCS combined for SKI</p> <p>-All sharks landed with fins on</p>
4 – <i>Shark research fishery</i>	<p>-<u>Within Research Fishery</u>: higher trip limits of sandbar and non-sandbar LCS than fishermen outside the research fishery</p> <p>-<u>Outside of Research Fishery</u>: no retention of sandbar sharks; 22 non-sandbar LCS per trip for SKI & SKD;</p> <p>-No trip limit for SCS and pelagics for SKD</p> <p>-16 pelagics & SCS combined for SKI</p> <p>-All sharks landed with fins on</p>
5 – Close Atlantic Shark Fisheries	<p>-No retention of any shark species</p>

Alternative suite	Time/Area Closures
1 – Status Quo	-Maintain current HMS time/area closures
2 – SKD permit holders and rec. anglers	-Maintain current HMS time/area closures -Implement the 8 preferred South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (SAFMC) Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
3 – SKD & SKI permit holders and rec. anglers	-Same as alternative suite 2
4 – <i>Shark research fishery</i>	-Same as alternative suite 2
5 – Close Atlantic Shark Fisheries	-Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico regions closed for shark fishing



Alternative suite	Reporting
1 – Status Quo	-Current observer, logbooks, dealer weigh-outs requirements
2 – SKD permit holders and rec. anglers	-Dealer reporting with 24 hours of receiving shark products -Status quo for logbooks and observers -All unclassified sharks = sandbar sharks
3 – SKD & SKI permit holders and rec. anglers	-Dealer reports <u>received</u> by NMFS within 10 days of end of reporting period -logbooks, observers, & unclassified shark designation same as alternative suite 2
4 – <i>Shark research fishery</i>	-Scientific observer reports would be used to monitor landings in shark research fishery -Dealer reports <u>received</u> by NMFS within 10 days of end of reporting period would be used to monitor landings outside research fishery
5 – Close Atlantic Shark Fisheries	-Need to improve logbook discard reporting for Coastal Fisheries Logbook -Place observers in longline & gillnet fisheries to monitor shark bycatch

Alternative suite	Seasons
1 – Status Quo	-Trimesters (January – April; May – August; & September – December)
2 – SKD permit holders and rec. anglers	<p>-One season</p> <p>-Close both sandbar and non-sandbar LCS fisheries when either reaches 80%; season would close within 5 days of a notice filing with the <u>Federal Register</u> (FR)</p> <p>-Pelagics and SCS fisheries would close when their respective quotas reach 80%; season would close within 5 days of a notice filing with the FR</p>
3 – SKD & SKI permit holders and rec. anglers	-Same as alternative suite 2
4 – <i>Shark research fishery</i>	-Same as alternative suite 2
5 – Close Atlantic Shark Fisheries	-No commercial seasons

Alternative suite	Regions
1 – Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -North Atlantic -South Atlantic -Gulf of Mexico
2 – SKD permit holders and rec. anglers	-One region
3 – SKD & SKI permit holders and rec. anglers	-Same as alternative suite 2
4 – <i>Shark research fishery</i>	-Same as alternative suite 2
5 – Close Atlantic Shark Fisheries	-No commercial regions

Alternative suite	Recreational Measures
1 – Status Quo	-1 shark > 54” FL vessel/trip (except prohibited species) + 1 Atlantic sharpnose and 1 bonnethead per person/trip
2 – SKD permit holders and rec. anglers	-Status quo size and bag limit -Recreational anglers can only land: bonnethead, Atlantic sharpnose, nurse, tiger, lemon, smooth hammerhead, great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, shortfin mako, common thresher, oceanic whitetip, and blue sharks
3 – SKD & SKI permit holders and rec. anglers	-Same as alternative suite 2
4 – <i>Shark research fishery</i>	-Same as alternative suite 2
5 – Close Atlantic Shark Fisheries	-Catch and release only

Summary of Preferred Alternative Suite 4

- Sandbars = 116.6 mt dw ; non-sandbar LCS = 541.2 mt dw
- Small research fishery: sandbar sharks & other sharks species can be landed (except prohib. spp.)
- Outside research fishery: no sandbar retention & 22 non-sandbar LCS trip limit for SKI and SKD
- Status quo SCS and pelagic quotas and retention limits for all fishermen; porbeagle sharks prohibited
- 8 SAFMC MPAs; Sharks landed with fins attached
- 1 region and 1 season; dealer reports received by NMFS within 10 days of end of reporting period
- Close sandbar and non-sandbar LCS when either quota reaches 80% with 5 day FR notice; all unclassified sharks = sandbar sharks
- Status quo recreational size and bag limits
- **Authorized recreational species**: bonnethead, Atlantic sharpnose, nurse, tiger, lemon, 3 hammerhead spp., shortfin mako, common thresher, oceanic whitetip, and blue sharks

Impacts of Preferred Alternative Suite 4

ALTERNATIVE SUITE	ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS (compared to Status Quo)	ECONOMIC IMPACTS (compared to Status Quo)
Suite 4 – Establish a small shark research fishery (Preferred Alternative Suite)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Positive ecological impacts are anticipated -Reduce landings of sandbar sharks from ~728 mt dw to 116.6 mt dw/year and non-sandbar LCS from 582 to 541.2 mt dw/year -Increase discards of sandbar sharks from 9.6 mt dw/year to 13.1 mt dw/year but overall catch and discards below the recommended TAC -Reduce discards of non-sandbar LCS from 153.3 mt dw to 56.6 mt dw/year and dusky sharks from 33.2 mt dw to 9.2 mt dw/year -Reduce landings of porbeagle sharks by 1.6 mt dw/year; nominal increase in porbeagle discards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Fishery-wide estimated losses in gross revenues from reduced sandbar and non-sandbar LCS landings: \$1.8 million/year -Negative economic impacts for fishermen operating outside of the research fishery since they cannot land sandbar sharks -Total gross revenues for 5-10 vessels operating inside the research fishery from sandbar and non-sandbar LCS landings: \$490K/year (\$98K - \$49K/vessel) -Total gross revenues for all vessels operating outside of research fishery from non-sandbar LCS landings: \$1.5 million/year -Limited access and IFQ systems in other fisheries may not allow shark fishermen to redistribute effort to other BLL & gillnet fisheries

Number of Potential Affected Permit Holders

- Currently, there are 231 directed, 298 incidental, and 269 shark dealer permits
- An average of 129 vessels with directed shark permits and 62 vessels with incidental shark permits reported sandbar shark landings each year from 2003-2005 (*i.e.*, active vessels)
- Since only a few vessels (*i.e.*, 5-10) would participate in the shark research fishery, ~129 directed shark permit holders and ~62 incidental shark permit holders would be affected by the preferred alternative suite
- Most directed and incidental shark permit holders are in the states of Florida, New Jersey, and North Carolina; most shark dealers are in Florida and North and South Carolina

Other Items in the Proposed Rule

- **Timing of shark stock assessments**
- **Timing of the release of the HMS Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report each year**
- **Updating dehooking requirements for smalltooth sawfish**
- **Clarifying that dealer reports need to be species specific**
- **Clarifying the definition of who needs a dealer permit to receive shark products; 1st receiver of sharks products would be required to have a shark dealer permit**

Modify Timing of Stock Assessments and HMS SAFE Report

- **Alternative 6** – maintain shark stock assessments every 2 – 3 years (status quo)
- **Alternative 7** – *conduct shark stock assessments at least every 5 years – preferred alternative*
- **Alternative 8** – maintain the release of the HMS SAFE report as Jan. or Feb. of every year (status quo)
- **Alternative 9** – *have the HMS SAFE report published in the fall of every year – preferred alternative*

Update Dehooking Requirements for Smalltooth Sawfish

- **When the 2003 Biological Opinion (BiOp) for the shark BLL and gillnet fisheries was issued, dehookers were not allowed to assist in the dehooking of smalltooth sawfish**
- **Updates were made to the 2003 BiOp on March 23, 2007, allowing dehookers to be used, if possible, to dehook smalltooth sawfish**
- **This rule would update the handling and release procedures for smalltooth sawfish to reflect modifications to the 2003 BiOp**

Proposed Rule Hearings

Date	Time	Hearing Location	Hearing Address
Wed., Aug. 8, 2007	6-8:50 p.m.	Manahawkin Public Library	129 N. Main St., Manahawkin, NJ 08050
Wed., Aug. 8, 2007	6-9 p.m.	SEFSC, Panama City Laboratory	3500 Delwood Beach Dr., Panama City, FL 32408
Tues., Aug. 14, 2007	6-9 p.m.	Bayou Black Recreational Center	3688 Southdown Mandalay Rd., Houma, LA 70360
Wed., Aug. 22, 2007	6:30-9:30 p.m.	City of Madeira Beach	300 Municipal Dr., Madeira Beach, FL 33708
Thurs., Aug. 23, 2007	5:30-8:30 p.m.	Fort Pierce Library	101 Melody Lane, Fort Pierce, FL 34950
Wed., Aug. 29, 2007	6-9 p.m.	Ocean Pines Public Library	11107 Cathell Rd., Berlin, MD 21811
Wed., Sept. 5, 2007	6-9 p.m.	University of Texas, Marine Science Institute	Visitor's Center, 750 Channel View Dr., Port Aransas, TX 78373
Thurs., Sept. 6, 2007	5-8 p.m.	Islamorada Public Library	81500 Overseas Highway, Islamorada, FL 33036
Monday, Sept. 10, 2007	6-9 p.m.	Manteo Town Hall	407 Budleigh St., Manteo, NC 27954
Monday, Sept. 17, 2007	5:30-8:30 p.m.	Portsmouth Public Library	175 Parrott Ave., Portsmouth, NH 03801

Tentative Timeline

- **Scoping** – ~January 2007 - **Completed**
- **Predraft** – ~March 2007 AP meeting - **Completed**
- **Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Proposed Rule:** Summer 2007, 75 day comment period – **Current Stage**
- **Final EIS:** Late Fall 2007
- **Final Rule:** Late Fall/Early Winter 2007; **Effective** Early 2008
- **Send Comments by 5pm October 10, 2007:**
 - Michael Clark, HMS Management Division, F/SF1, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 – indicate “Comments on Amendment 2 to the HMS FMP” on envelope
 - SHKA2@noaa.gov
 - FAX: 301-713-1917 - indicate “Comments on Amendment 2 to the HMS FMP”